

## How Chinatown can advocate for stimulus resources

## 華埠社區如何響應刺激 經濟資源方案計劃



(Photo by Anna Tse/謝婉君攝)

By Samuel Tsoi

On March 12, the Chinatown Coalition (TCC) in its monthly meeting called upon community leaders to advocate for funding through the \$787-billion stimulus package that President Obama signed into law on February 17.

### Funding Sources

As of March 19, the administration of Governor Deval Patrick estimated that Massachusetts will receive about \$8.7 billion in federal stimulus aid. The City of Boston will receive funds through three channels: direct appropriation from the federal government, competitive grants from the federal government, and competitive grants from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Boston has already been allocated \$147.4 million, most of which will be directed toward transportation, public safety, education, and neighborhood development with funds awaiting summer jobs for youth and energy efficiency initiatives.

Local communities are targeting the funds that the state and cities are distributing. While the majority of the stimulus money will be applied to building infrastructure such as a "shovel-ready" highway and other public transit projects, there is a significant portion available for human services such as job training and child care. "About 75% of the stimulus funding is 'untouchable,' which are already designated," said Alex Zhang of the Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC). "The funds will either be funneled through existing channels of state and city

agencies, where various agencies have already been vetted [to receive funds], or they will be open through competition," Elaine Ng of the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC) noted.

Since the first wave of payments is already being spent within a 45-day period that started in February, TCC will coordinate efforts to advocate for the second wave of payments estimated to be applied in June. On March 19, a focus group of directors and representatives from several Chinatown agencies met to discuss the most compelling needs facing the immigrant community and how to organize effective and timely advocacy.

### Community Needs

"In the previous major downturn in 1994, Chinatown groups got together and called representatives and met congressional staff," recalled Beverly Wing of TCC. "We were in a rapid response situation, and this opportunity requires us to be in a rapid response mode."

Representatives from human service and advocacy agencies agreed that the most compelling needs are continued and strengthened English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes, job training programs, and job creation. Mei Kee Wong of the Action Center for Educational Services and Scholarship (ACCESS) has already seen the loss of vouchers for the elementary children her agency serves. In addition, the parents of those children have lost incomes and even jobs.

"Some of them are laid off from places like hotels and restaurants, and others are

receiving fewer tips, which really affect fee-based programs such as [ACCESS]," Wong said.

Finding a job with a sizable income has always been challenging for immigrants who lack fluency in English. Many settle for dead-end jobs in order to survive. Savvy immigrants are taking advantage of the languishing job market to improve their language and vocational skills. "Enrollment in our ESOL programs increased, and job training programs are almost filled to capacity," said Richard Goldberg, Director of Education at the Asian American Civic Association (AACA). "We also see an essential need for direct services for the unemployed." The AACA recently started a walk-in employment aid center offering Chinese and English job search tools. The rise of green-collar jobs is a silver lining in a tough economy. The AACA won a handsome grant from the city last year to run a green job training program that equips workers with skills in building and retrofitting energy-efficient systems.

The environmental component of the federal stimulus package translates into a direct investment in related jobs and programs. According to the latest estimate, Massachusetts will eventually acquire \$177 million for sustainability programs, about two-thirds of which is allocated for weatherization programs and the rest for energy efficiency, which officials hope will create more than 6,500 jobs in the Bay State.

In Chinatown, where several construction projects are underway in the neighborhood and in surrounding Downtown parcels, many hope to train local residents

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【本報謝婉君3月12日訊】面對奧巴馬總統早在2月17日已簽署通過的7870億美元的刺激經濟方案資金計劃 (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act)，華埠社區聯盟Chinatown Coalition (TCC) 在本月十二日舉行每月例會，會議主題是呼籲各社區及領導人士，團結一致，相討為目前切身，緊急對策，回應州政府在各項可申請的經濟援助計劃。

直到目前3月19日為止，麻省州長Deval Patrick估計在7870億美元的全國經濟計劃方案中，麻省政府將獲撥款約其中的87億美元為援助刺激經濟的資金。波士頓市將從三個渠道收到經濟援助資金：一是從聯邦政府直接撥款，二是從聯邦政府及麻省政府申請撥發緊急補助基金形式取得。波士頓市得悉將會獲分配1億4千700百40萬美元，其中大部分將用於交通運輸，公共安全建設，教育和社區發展及有待基金撥發款於青年暑期工作計劃及提高能源效率使用方案等。

本地各社區團體為各項可申請的撥款的資金作準備，亞美社區發展協會(ACDC)的張冬(Alex Zhang)說：「大約有75%的刺激經濟資金已『名花有主』落實被安排用於一些『準備就緒』指定的公路及共程建築基建項目上。」但仍有相當大的援助資金可撥出作例如職業培訓和兒童保健計劃等。波士頓華埠社區中心(BCNC)的伍綺玲Elaine Ng說：「這些資金將被由不同途徑從州或市政府撥出，於各社區團體通過公開申請競爭而取得。」

從2月開始，第一批刺激經濟款項資金已定被用於在45天之內，華埠社區聯盟將會努力增取在6月接受申請的第二批刺激經濟款項資金。在3月19日，一個由不同社團和機構建立的關注小組將會相討目前最迫切的社區需要援助項目，有效地組織及回應剩不是太多

有關第二批刺激經濟款項資金的申請時間。

從過去經驗中，各社團吸取教訓，了解社團團結的重要性。華埠社區聯盟的Beverly Wing說：「大家正面對一個逼切的情況，而目前的情況正需要大家同心積極，作出有效、快速的回應。」華埠社區服務代表一致認為目前社區需要為加強英語班、職業培訓計劃，幫助創造就業機會。

基督教華人社區服務中心(ACCESS)執行主任黃廖美(Mei Kee Wong)表示已察覺到在經濟不景下，有些的學齡兒童的父母因收入減少或失去例如在酒店、餐館及一些服務性行業的工作，而直接影響該機構為兒童及家庭提供的一些收費服務。

移民人士一直希望尋找到良好和穩定的工作，但很多人因語言不通，只有接受低薪，沒出路的工作。華美福利會(AACA)的教育主任高李察(Richard Goldberg)表示當有量大求職需要時，很多人需要專業的職業訓練，訓練課程幾乎爆滿；但同時基本的職業訓練在任何時候也有需要。華美福利會最近的增設了一個有中英語言報務，不用預約的求職中心，同時也增設一些與環保有關的綠色能源新與建築系統有關的職業訓練課程，提升移民在新興行業的就業機會。

現今是環保意識抬頭的年代，聯邦政府的刺激經濟方案也朝著這一個與環保發展有直接和間接相關的投資就業機會。根據最新估計，麻省最終會在刺激經濟方案取得1億7千7百萬美元，大約三分之二會用於在增設財富項目上，其餘部分會用於提高能源效率計劃，而政府希望各計劃會替麻州創造多6,500個就業機會。

在華埠周圍有數個建築項目正在進行中，很多人希望這類工程建築的發展期間中及期後，能有助培訓本區居民和其他亞裔移民獲得更多求職機會。可是不少人認為這類高級工程建築，不會為低收入和華埠社區居民和移民帶

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## Announcements

### CHINATOWN

#### Spring street clean-up

On April 25, 2009 from 9:00am to 1:00pm, volunteers are needed to help sweep pickup and clean around Chinatown. Please report before 9:00am to the volunteer staff at the corner of Beach Street and Harrison Avenue, in front of Sovereign Bank. For more info, please email gilbertho@ccba-ne.org; courtho@gmail.com; tony.m.yee@vzw.blackberry.net or call 617-350-6303 (Chinatown Main Street); 617-542-2574 (CCBA)

### JOBS

#### Apply for a Job with Census 2010?

Take the Test at the AACA. The Asian American Civic Association (AACA) is hosting Census 2010 recruitment testing for the Census 2010 recruitment. Testing takes place every Monday, from 11:30 am to 3:00pm at 87 Tyler Street, Boston. The U.S. Department of Commerce is now hiring clerks, recruiting assistants and census takers for Census 2010. A multiple-choice test is given as part of the hiring process. Interested applicants can contact Melody Tsang at melody@aaca-boston.org or at 617-426-9492 ext 230 to schedule an appointment. For further information about Census 2010 or to download practice tests, please visit www.2010censusjobs.gov

### SCHOLARSHIPS

#### Scholarships available for college-bound Chinese American high school students

The Chinese Historical Society of New England ("CHSNE") announces the annual CHSNE/J.S. Waterman & Sons-Waring-Langone Scholarship competition for 2009. Two Scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors of Chinese ancestry entering a New England college in the fall of 2009. Each Scholarship is \$500 per year. If the recipient maintains full-time enrollment in good standing, he/she will be awarded \$500 each year following the initial award year for up to a total of four award years (\$2,000 maximum). Interested applicants can download an application from the pdf or doc files enclosed here. Completed applications should be mailed to:

CHSNE  
2 Boylston Street, Suite G-3  
Boston, MA 02116  
ATTN: Scholarship Committee  
Deadline for 2009 application: Postmarked on or before May 31, 2009. Announcement of Scholarship recipients: Late June or July 2009.

For more information, please see: <http://chsne.org/scholarships.htm>, email [info@chsne.org](mailto:info@chsne.org) or [wto@bridgew.edu](mailto:wto@bridgew.edu) or leave a message at 617-338-4339. [group.php?gid=54316646894&ref=mf](http://group.php?gid=54316646894&ref=mf).

### FUNDRAISING EVENTS

#### A Little Peace Dessert Tasting Fundraiser

Saturday, April 4, 2009  
7:00-10:00 pm  
Vietnamese American Community Center  
42 Charles St.  
Dorchester, MA  
(MBTA Red Line/Fields Corner)

Join us for a tasting of scrumptious goodies. Over 30 desserts, sweet or savory. Vote for the tastiest dessert from the Ocean Spray Bakers Challenge!

Presented by:  
Asian American Resource Workshop,  
Asian Pacific Islander Movement,  
Boston Korean Adoptees Inc., Coalition for  
Asian Pacific American Youth and  
National Association of Asian American  
Professionals-Boston  
Corporate Sponsor: Ocean Spray

Tickets:  
\$20 in advance ? \$10 children (10 & under)  
\$27 at the door  
Tickets may be ordered online at: [www.aarw.org/dessert2009](http://www.aarw.org/dessert2009)

#### Green Brush art reception at Quincy Medical Center

The reception will feature internationally-renowned Chinese American Fine Art Society artists, and proceeds will be used to provide free health education, screenings and publications to the growing local Asian community and to enhance Asian services at QMC. The Program will include a silent auction, Chinese brush painting and calligraphy demonstrations, traditional Chinese music, raffle drawing, hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

Date and Time: Tuesday, April 28, 2009,  
6 to 9 p.m.

Location: Quincy Medical Center,  
McCauley Building Lobby, 114 Whitwell  
Street, Quincy

Cost: \$48 per ticket  
For more information about sponsorship opportunities, call (617)376-5493 or email [ltom@quincymc.org](mailto:ltom@quincymc.org).

#### Tasting event to benefit Joslin Diabetes Center's Asian American Diabetes Initiative

Event Description: A fabulous evening of food tasting and fundraising, bringing together many of Boston's finest chefs to raise money and increase awareness of the growing incidence of diabetes among Asian Americans.

Participating chefs include Jasper White and Henning Vatborg of Summer Shack, Joanne Chang of Flour Bakery and Myers + Chang, Edward Leung of Fugakyu and many more.

Date: Monday, March 30, 2009

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Location: The State Room  
Atop 60 State St., Boston MA

Cost: \$200 per person. (All proceeds benefit Joslin's Asian American Diabetes Initiative)

To purchase tickets: Please visit [www.joslin.org](http://www.joslin.org) and check out the Calendar section on the home page, or call Laura Naden at (617) 732-2531. Group rate of 10 also available.

### FILMS

#### Chinese film screening at the Thomas Crane Public Library in Quincy

The award-winning 2007 Chinese film "In Love We Trust" will be shown on Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the Thomas Crane Public Library, 40 Washington St., Quincy.

In the film, a divorced couple learns that the only way to save their little daughter Hehe, who suffers from a blood disease, is to have another child. Now both remarried, Mei Zhu and Xiao Lu are forced to test their love and their commitment to one another by putting their current relationships in danger. A story of parenthood, love, married life, betrayal, trust and giving, In Love We Trust touches upon changes in contemporary society and family life, as well as the moral and ethical dilemmas brought on by modernity.

Thomas Crane Public Library is located at 40 Washington St. Quincy MA 02169. For more information, please call 617-376-1331.

#### Fate Scores

*Fate Scores*, a film by Boston director and actor Albert M. Chan, will have its New England premiere on Sunday, April 5th, 2009, at 4:30pm at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) Auditorium (17 Canal St., Providence, RI) as part of the Southeast New England Film, Music & Arts Festival. The film also screens later in the month on Saturday April 25th, 2009, at 6pm at the Loews Theatre/AMC Boston Common (175 Tremont St. Boston, MA) as part of the Boston International Film Festival. Tickets are available at <http://www.senefilm.org> and <http://www.bifilmfestival.com>.

### CLASSES

#### Mandarin classes in Quincy

Mandarin classes coordinated by the Quincy Asian American Advisory Committee will begin in May 2009, the Asian Heritage Month.

DATES (6 Saturdays): May 2, 9, 23, 30, June 6 and 13

FEE: Quincy City Employees - \$50; individuals who work or live in Quincy - \$60 ; all others - \$70  
Time: Course A - 9:30am to 10:45am (for native English speakers who have no Chinese language background); Course B - 11:15am to 12:30pm (for Cantonese speakers who would like to brush up Mandarin)  
Place: N. Quincy Community Center, 381 Hancock Street, N. Quincy

For more info and/or to register or to confirm your registration, please fill out the on-line application and send back: <http://yausmarketing.bizland.com/quincyasianamericanforum/id15.html>

### MUSIC

#### Quincy's Thomas Crane Public Library presents Chinese folk music

Traditional Music School of Boston on Sunday, April 5 at 3:00 p.m. at the Thomas Crane Public Library, 40 Washington St., Quincy.

The concert will include music played on a variety of traditional instruments, including the ErHu (two-stringed violin), Dizi (bamboo flute), and Zheng (plucked

## SAMPAN

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zither). The Thomas Crane Library is located at 40 Washington Street, Quincy, MA 02169.

### EXHIBITS

#### The Peabody Essex Museum presents Fish, Silk, Tea, Bamboo

This spring, the Peabody Essex Museum opens a jewel box of an exhibition presenting works selected from PEM's superlative collection of Chinese export watercolors, lacquer, and porcelain. Fish, Silk, Tea, Bamboo: Cultivating an Image of China explores the rich artistic and cultural exchange between Asia and Europe during the 19th century through works featuring these four essential natural motifs. Fish, Silk, Tea, Bamboo will be on view at the Peabody Essex Museum from March 14th, 2009 through 2011. For info, please call 866-745-1876 or visit [www.pem.org](http://www.pem.org).

#### Arts in Bloom at the MFA

This spring, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), celebrates the 33rd annual Art in Bloom, the popular annual festival of flowers that transforms the MFA's galleries into floral oases of extraordinary arrangements inspired by magnificent works of art. A spectacular springtime tradition, Art in Bloom brings approximately 50 New England garden clubs and numerous floral design professionals together to create vibrant floral interpretations of approximately 50 works from the MFA's encyclopedic collection. The event also features a free Open House, with admittance to the Museum's exhibition, Titian, Tintoretto, Veronese: Rivals in Renaissance Venice, and special lively programs, including demonstrations, illustrated lectures, guided tours and master classes from April 25 through April 27. Please call 617 369.3169 for more information.

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Chinatown News

FROM PAGE 1 STUMULUS

and other Asian immigrants to obtain those jobs before and after construction. Many believe since the patterns of gentrification are frequently detrimental to low-income and low-skilled immigrant communities, developments and managers of luxury condominium and hotel projects ought to be inclusive and intentional in local job creation and economic growth.

"We recognize, while many of the construction jobs for public projects and large-scale buildings such as the W Hotel are unionized, there are various private and smaller projects, which will provide opportunities for local residents and immigrants," said Lydia Lowe of the Chinese Progressive Association (CPA), which advocates for worker rights and advancement. Lowe and her colleague Fiona Yu both pointed out the undeniable importance of job training campaigns and advocacy efforts to obtain more building and construction jobs. Beside gentrification and unionization, CPA also acknowledged traditional obstacles, such as language and trade skills, toward greater access to these jobs. CPA is also looking into direct services for workers and the unemployed, as well as community-run small-business development programs that will help contract work for local residents and immigrants.

BCNC is working toward preparing young people in its youth program to work as aides or interpreters in the healthcare sector, a field still growing despite the recession. Beside the unrelenting need for affordable housing, Marie Moy of the Chinatown Resident Association, a group that represents different generations of the population, also affirmed the need for youth employment. Employment opportunities are particularly important for youths who assume adult roles in immigrant households.

One in five workers in Massachusetts, and one in three in Boston is an immigrant. It is, therefore, not an overstatement to say that immigrants are the lifeblood of the state's economy. What thwarts progress in immigrant communities is not the absence of ingenuity or sound work ethic, but the presence of cultural and language barriers. Chinatown and the broader Asian American community need to be assured that households are equipped to not just to weather this economic storm, but to be part of the twenty-first century workforce, which requires comprehensive and flexible skills sets. Chinatown needs the stimulus to boost its career training, language classes and youth empowerment programs and to launch innovative and suitable business development and training in the healthcare and energy efficiency sectors.

In the upcoming weeks, on behalf of its members, TCC will submit oral and written testimonies to several public hearings for the stimulus plan. The leaders of Chinatown organizations are actively listening to the concerns of their constituents. Advocates and residents both young and old are encouraged to participate in this discussion. TCC will reconvene on April 17.

Samuel Tsoi is a Sampan correspondent.

Op-Ed

Community Speak-Out on the W Hotel Development

By Amy Leung, Chinese Progressive Association

Chinatown is a neighborhood of working families. But since 2000, over 900 luxury units have been built in the community, compared to only 140 moderate and low-income units. The W Hotel Boston is yet another such high end development in Chinatown. The development is a 235-room upscale hotel with 123 luxury residential condominium units. These luxury condos are being advertised from \$415,000 to \$4.5 million a unit!

So much luxury development has brought on gentrification and escalating rents, tenant displacement, and small business failures in Chinatown. Projects are touted as "economic development," but how many Chinatown residents have ever gotten jobs in these buildings? As the W Hotel prepares to open this fall, we hope that as a new neighbor, it will consider how it can contribute to stabilizing Chinatown's future. We are urging W Hotel to do the following:

- Establish measurable hiring goals for employing Boston residents, minorities, and women, with a particular focus on hiring from the local Chinatown neighborhood.
- Give equal consideration to applicants with limited English skills, when they possess the necessary qualifications to do the job. Accept paper applications as an alternative to the online application process.
- Make public the details of their hiring plans and criteria.
- Make public plans for the hiring hall in Chinatown. The hiring hall must not charge fees to job applicants.
- Create career ladders for employees by funding English for Employment and job training (for both job applicants and current employees).
- Meet with community organizations about hiring plans, and report back hiring outcomes to the community.

We know that we can only hope to realize these hiring goals from the W Hotel with strong community organizing. Past experience has shown the victories possible through grassroots organizing. Fifteen years ago, Chinatown community activists and residents joined together to oppose building an eight-floor parking garage on a piece of land known as Parcel C. Many people thought that the garage was inevitable and that it was useless to fight. But ultimately the community won after 18 months of organizing that involved thousands of community people. Today the Metropolitan is a mixed-use development that stands on Parcel C and is a symbol of the power of the community. Local institutions like Tufts Medical Center launched special community outreach programs as they realized the importance of being seen as "a good neighbor."

The CPA Workers Center is holding a Community Speak-Out on Monday, March 30, to discuss jobs and development, and to explain our demands for local and minority hiring at the new W Hotel. We are inviting local elected officials, the hotel workers' union, and other community leaders to listen to testimony from Chinatown residents and unemployed workers, and to ask for their support in pressuring the W Hotel to make local and minority hiring a priority.

We have learned that our community

has power when we are united and organized. Companies are learning that it is good for business to be a good neighbor. Please come and join us on March 30th at 1pm in the Metropolitan Community Room (38 Oak Street).

Chinatown News

Chinatown's hospitality during times of change

By Samuel Tsoi

Housing profoundly shapes many aspects of our lives. The home is the main setting for personal, domestic and social development. Not only does it determine our access to community and commercial resources, but it also contributes to a significant portion of household budgets.

In expensive and cold climate areas such as Boston, the costs of shelter greatly affect a household's social mobility. Unfortunately, the challenge of meeting high costs is even more overwhelming for immigrant and minority neighborhoods as the economic downturn perpetuates existing gentrification and urban renewal.

According to the latest census data, Asian households on average pay the highest rent among non-white groups in Massachusetts. Expensive rent not only takes up a significant part of a household's budget but also slows upward mobility.

In general, many minority households experience shelter poverty in relation to household size, which means that they cannot meet adequate non-housing needs such as food, transportation, medical care, or utilities after paying for housing. As of 2006, 45 percent of Asian households (21,000 households) were shelter poor, compared to 41 percent of white and 61 percent of Latino households. These figures are likely higher today.

Since its beginning, Chinatown has been a stepping stone for Chinese immigrants. Today, it is still as essential to have a welcoming neighborhood where recent immigrants can find Chinese-speaking social services, affordable housing, and access to transportation and jobs. However, Chinatown's housing has become less accessible to Chinese immigrants in recent years.

The Bay State's recent wave of Mandarin and Fuzhouese-speaking immigrants from China has changed the linguistic and cultural dynamics of Chinatown. Mandarin has become the dialect of choice in stores and churches. Because of China's growing global influence in the past decade, many parents are urging their children to learn Mandarin.

Over the years, this trend can be seen in the Boston Chinese Evangelical Church (BCEC). In addition to Cantonese and English ministries, BCEC houses a vibrant Mandarin ministry that primarily serves newer immigrants and the elderly in Chinatown. "It is difficult for singles and young families to find housing in Chinatown... and many new immigrants do not want to live in Chinatown due to security and pricing issues," said Andy Su, one of BCEC's Mandarin-speaking ministers.

In the past, Mandarin-speaking immigrants from Mainland China or Taiwan came to Boston through the 1965 Hart-Celler Immigration Act, which attracted immigrants with specific technical skills. Many of those skilled immigrants settled in suburbs and surrounding universities along the high-tech belt. As more Mandarin speakers arrive today with limited English skills and limited connections with more-established Chinatown residents, it is difficult for them to find housing initially.

Oftentimes, rental units in Chinatown are filled through word of mouth. Landlords of housing buildings, many of which have been family-owned for generations, prefer continuance over

screening new potential residents. Moreover, affordable units such as those at Tai Tung Village and Mass Pike Towers have very low turnover rates. "As immigration quotas expand in the recent years, options are fading [for recent low-income immigrants]. Many are settling in South Boston, Dorchester, Malden, Quincy, and Brighton," said Richard Chin, Director of Community Development at the YMCA.

Some immigrants do eventually become homeowners in areas with competitive schools. As estimated by a study by UMass Boston, approximately one in six households in Massachusetts is headed by a person of color, a two-fold increase within the past two decades. From 1990 to 2000, homeownership saw a tremendous increase among minority groups.

Owning a home is often touted as an anchor for the middle class. During the post-World War II era, the Federal Housing Authority instituted the unprecedented 30-year 10-percent-down mortgage, still the most common today, which led many families toward homeownership.

Dreams of homeownership have long attracted immigrants. However, this vehicle toward financial stability and assimilation was largely unavailable to many minorities and immigrants through decades of discriminatory practices such as redlining and predatory lending, leaving a void in the tax base in many urban centers. Thus, where you live often determines your education and social mobility.

Recent patterns of urban renewal, transit-oriented developments and gentrification bring a new set of challenges for immigrants. In many ways, Chinatown is at the cross-section, as symbolized by such luxury developments as the Archstone and the W Hotel.

Moreover, the real estate market, in the form of speculative and risky subprime loans, was a main instigator of nightmares for many households and triggered the current global financial crisis.

Relative to other groups, Chinese homeowners have not been as devastated by foreclosures. "If there were foreclosures among Chinese homeowners, it would have happened a year ago," said Sue Cheng, manager at Chinatown's Sun Mortgage, which primarily serves Mandarin and Cantonese clients. "I have never introduced a subprime mortgage to my clients," she said. "Also, since there is a strong cultural value for saving, many Chinese families try their best not to foreclose, plus the fact that they usually have at least a 20-percent-down payment and help from extended family."

Despite avoiding foreclosures, the ripple effects of the economic downturn have led to difficulty in paying for mortgages in the midst of job loss and sluggish business. It is also harder for immigrant families to qualify for a mortgage. "Because of tightening lending guidelines, the banks are extremely cautious in verifying income, regardless of down payment," Cheng pointed out.

Meanwhile, Chinatown continues to undergo urban renewal. Even as communities such as Quincy and Malden become suburban hubs, the location of Chinatown is still unmatched as the center for Chinese immigrants in terms of access to affordable housing, transportation, jobs, services and gathering spaces.

Between the limited century-old brick tenements and public housing, the options are few. Mixed-income units, spearheaded by the Asian Community Development Corporation, such as the Metropolitan with 115 affordable units and future mixed-income developments on Parcel 24 on Hudson St. hope to keep Chinatown a place where immigrants can live, gather, interact and be proud of.

Even as affordable units attract low-income families from various ethnic groups and luxury condos deter low-income immigrants, Chinatown remains one of

CONTINUED PAGE 4

Coming up on April 10:

Feature article:

•Gambling and the Asian American community

Education Special

•Summer programs for high school students

•University summer programs

•Neighborhood summer programs



FROM PAGE 3 HOSPITALITY

in Boston. With the demographics and cultural dynamics continually shifting and the current economy hurting many low-income families, it is crucial for Chinatown to balance between commercial and residential, renewal and affordability.

From the concentration of faith communities and civic groups to businesses, the neighborhood needs to expand its capacity as a gateway toward assimilation and success in order to sustain the dynamism, ingenuity and perseverance of many immigrants in the uncertain times ahead.

*Samuel Tsoi is a Sampan correspondent.*

Finances

What to do if you get laid off from your job?

By Michael C. Tow

No one wants to be the next person to get that dreaded tap on the shoulder, but with the national unemployment levels hovering around 9 percent and Massachusetts state levels not too far behind, it’s tough for anyone not to be a bit worried. So what do you do if you do you get called to the boss’s office? Here are a few tips to provide some guidance for those who do get laid off.

File for unemployment. If you were laid off and not fired then you should be able to file for unemployment (there are some exceptions). You can file over the phone through the tele claim center at 617-626-6800 or walk into a claims center. It usually can take a few weeks to get that first check. So don’t delay! Unemployment income is about 50% of your weekly wage up to a certain maximum.

Decide on your health insurance options. COBRA health insurance may be an option. It is the government mandate that allows laid off workers to continue their companies group plan coverage for a limited time. It can cost around \$300 per person and \$1000 for families. You have 60 days to sign up for COBRA.

Obviously if you lose your job, you need to minimize spending and expenses. But there are few must have expenses for today’s job seeker. Make sure you have adequate interview attire, a cell phone so people can get in touch with you, and a web accessible PDA (personal digital assistant) so you can check email on the road. As an employer, nothing is more frustrating than contacting a potential candidate and then waiting a long time for them to get back to you. There are things you need to cut back, but for those looking for a new job, these are the essentials.

Although calling a recruiter may be top on your list, that doesn’t mean you should stop your own networking efforts. Update your info on social networking sites such as LinkedIn and Facebook. It’s an easy and fast way to get the word out that you’re looking for a new job. Plus what a better way for people to help you than the people who already know you during your job search. If you do not have an account with these sites, this is the time to open one.

If you have a loan out on your 401k, usually you have 90 days to pay it back in full after you get laid off. If you don’t pay back the loan in time, you will be considered in default. The amount you owe will be considered taxable income and you will be subject to the 10% penalty if you’re under the age of 59 ½.

If you know your finances will be in tough shape or you’ve been unemployed for a while, look for part time work to help pay some bills. This can provide some much needed income but still allow you with enough time to continue a full time job search. As long as your income is less than one third of the unemployment benefit rate, you can still receive your full unemployment income benefit.

Losing your job can be a very difficult, stressful and emotional time, but remember do not burn your bridges. The

best thing to do is try to hold your head up high and stay professional. You never know who you may be working with or for down the road!

If you have a topic that you would like me to discuss in a future article please email me at [mtow@newbostonfinancial.com](mailto:mtow@newbostonfinancial.com).

*Michael Tow is a Certified Financial Planner. He is located at 58 Harvard Street in Brookline and can be reached at 617-734-4400 or [www.newbostonfinancial.com](http://www.newbostonfinancial.com).*

Immigration

Learning About the U.S. Immigration System: Conditional Permanent Residence

By Keith A. Pabian

Tim and Lei Mei were married on January 1, 2008 at a beautiful New Year’s Eve service in Beijing, China. Tim and Lei Mei had been dating for three years and were extremely excited to be getting married. After their marriage, Tim and Lei Mei moved to Boston, Massachusetts and Tim petitioned for Lei Mei to become a Legal Permanent Resident, otherwise known as a Green Card holder. On March 15, 2009, Lei Mei’s Green Card was approved. However, Lei Mei is confused because her Green Card describes her as a Conditional Permanent Resident.

If you are a person that immigrated to the United States through a marriage that was less than 2 years old when you received your green card, then you received your green card on a conditional basis. In other words, you are known as a conditional permanent resident. This conditional status lasts for 2 years after your green card was granted. After those two years, you can request that the government change your immigration status from a Conditional Permanent Resident to a Lawful Permanent Resident.

But what happens if Lei Mei and Tim divorce before the end of those 2 years while Lei Mei is still in the United States as a conditional permanent resident? Will Lei Mei lose her green card?

Usually, the United States Citizenship & Immigration Service (USCIS) requires that a spouse granted conditional permanent residence file to remove the conditional residence jointly with his or her spouse. However, there is an exception for a person that has been divorced before filing to remove his or her conditional residence.

If you are a conditional permanent resident and you are divorced, then you may file an I-751 petition without the help of your ex-spouse to remove your conditional residence if you can show that you entered into your marriage in good faith and that the marriage has legally been terminated. Therefore, if you can show that you and your former spouse had a real marriage and that you have obtained a legal divorce, then you can file an I-751 petition by yourself. Similarly, children of divorced parents can also file an I-751 petition by themselves if they can show that their parents entered into a good faith marriage and that they were legally divorced.

To show that you entered into a good faith marriage, you should submit as many documents as possible with the I-751 petition to show that you had a real marriage. Documents such as joint bank account statements, a lease or mortgage with both your name and your ex-spouse’s name on it, and birth certificates of any children than you had together are helpful in showing a valid marriage.

*Keith A. Pabian, Esq. is an Immigration Attorney at Pabian & Russell, LLC and is proficient in Mandarin Chinese. Mr. Pabian can be reached at (617) 951-3721 or by email at [kpabian@pabianrussell.com](mailto:kpabian@pabianrussell.com).*

Health

Health Resources Around the Neighborhood

By Christopher Tsang

It is an unfortunate fact of life that we get sick or injured. Minor inconveniences like scratches and colds are easily remedied. Over-the-counter medications and first aid supplies are as accessible as the nearest CVS. However, what happens when you find yourself in need of a physician’s services? The solution appears to be very simple: directly adjacent to your neighborhood stands a great edifice to the healing arts, the teaching hospital known as Tufts Medical Center.

Unlike the local CVS, however, the hospital may appear to be a wholly inaccessible place. The language barrier alone is enough to deter many from seeking help, even in the direst of circumstances. But what I am writing to tell you is that the hospital, along with a host of other health resources in your local community, is far from intimidating, and that there exist solutions to almost every problem you may encounter in receiving proper health care. (In fact, the word “local” can be viewed to encompass all of greater Boston, which at times appears to be an entire city devoted to outstanding health care; hence, if you know where to look, it becomes almost impossible to not receive proper health care in this town!)

Local health services offer most everything that you require for the maintenance of good health. First and foremost, when you are acutely ill or injured, an emergency system is in place to take you to a facility that is equipped to handle your condition. Also, there is a veritable army of health care workers (including physicians and nurses) available to handle your everyday needs, from getting a yearly physical check-up to answering questions about that knee that keeps hurting whenever you climb the stairs. Finally, there are services in place that also handle both the preventative and supportive aspects of health care, such as immunizations and therapy.

Q: What do I do if I have an emergency?

A: An emergency is roughly defined as an acute illness or injury that requires immediate medical attention (for example, if someone is having trouble breathing or is having a baby). In these cases, you should call 911, which will connect to you to an emergency dispatcher that will send an ambulance to your location. If you cannot speak English, there is no need to worry further, as there are translators at the dispatch center fluent in both Mandarin and Cantonese. However, it would not hurt to learn certain words in English, such as “emergency” or “help”; this will assure the dispatcher that this is a real emergency, and subsequently expedite the arrival of proper emergency resources.

Q: What if I don’t have health insurance? Can I get health insurance?

A: This is often the second-most significant stumbling block in the quest to get adequate health care. If you have an acute emergency (as described above), know that the staff at the emergency room of the vast majority of the hospitals in the Boston area is obligated to treat your illness or injury without prejudice or bias. The bottom line is that you will not be turned away, even if you do not have health insurance. However, problems arise when the bill comes for your care, because you will be expected to pay the entire bill out-of-pocket, and oftentimes the costs are far steeper than planned. In order to acquire health insurance, the simplest and most cost-effective route is through your employer; a company health benefits plan works by deducting a small amount from


your paychecks and using that money to pay for the premium (i.e. the monthly fee for having health insurance). There are also private or hospital-affiliated health insurances, like the Tufts Health Plan and the Harvard Pilgrim health plans. These are available to everyone, but note that it is your responsibility to remember to pay the monthly premiums; if you are late in making payments, you run the risk of losing your health coverage. One final note to make here is that premiums can and will vary based on your age, gender, and medical history. Since health insurance is essentially a business, the premiums are higher for individuals who are more likely to require medical attention and thus incur costs to the health insurance company. This holds true for both the policy-holder as well as any family members who are also covered under the same plan.

Q: Where can I go to get yearly check-ups, get shots, and satisfy my other non-urgent medical needs?

A: The majority of people never have to see the inside of an ambulance, and that is a good thing. So, in those other instances that do not require emergency medical services, the first resource that you should seek out is a primary care physician (PCP). These physicians are usually trained in the field of internal medicine, and are the proverbial “jack-of-all-trades” of medicine. There are plenty of these physicians at Tufts Medical Center, and all it takes is a visit to the office in question (you can call general information services at 617-636-5000, and ask for the Department of Medicine, after which you can ask which physicians are accepting patients; again, the hospital has a translation service in case you cannot speak English) to schedule an initial physical exam. These physicians will let you know if there is anything that should be brought to your attention, or if you need further tests or treatment by a specialist (this is known as a “referral,” which is required by some specialty physicians in order to treat your hypothetical condition, such as heart or vision problems). They will also be the one you should seek for things such as immunizations (such as flu shots) and non-urgent medical conditions (such as when you have a persistent headache that won’t go away). Finally, there are also primary care physicians for children known as pediatricians. They work primarily at the Floating Hospital for Children adjacent to the medical center, and are available for approximately the same services as for adults (the number to call is the same, except ask for the Department of Pediatrics instead of the Department of Medicine).

There exist many paths to the acquisition of proper health care, and hopefully this article has satisfied some questions about how to navigate some of the inherent obstacles in utilizing the available resources to keep one in good health.

*Article funded through the Asian Health Initiative of Tufts Medical Center*



### Comments? Questions?

Please submit health questions or interested topics to [editor@sampan.org](mailto:editor@sampan.org)



Op-Ed

## Quincy Adams - South Shore Gateway into "the City"

By Victor Ng

The fourth Quincy red line stop, Quincy Adams, serves as a parking facility to many South Shore commuters heading into Boston. Convenient to Route 3, 93 and 95, South Shore residents will agree that paying \$7 a day and a monthly Charlie Card will alleviate the headaches of Boston traffic, parking tickets and rude pedestrians. With 2,538 parking spaces, Quincy Adams is second only to Alewife for number of parking spaces for the commuter. I used to think North Station or Wellington stations on the Orange line had sufficient parking for commuters but they only have a little over 1000 spaces each. Maintaining this South Shore connection is vital to the success of an ailing Rapid Transit Service.

Commuting is an important element to an Asian family's decision to settle in an area. Many immigrant Chinese moved out of Boston in the 80's to places like Malden, Framingham and Quincy. Many of these communities offer convenient locations to the highway, to shopping, to stable housing market prices. We all know that Chinese families prefer to buy their homes as opposed to renting and paying the landlords' mortgages instead of their own. But out of those communities mentioned above, Quincy stands at the top of the list when it comes to increased home values, increase Asian store fronts, and increase Asian neighbors on your street.

Over the past 5 years alone, the immigrant Asian population from mainland China increased many times over in Quincy neighborhoods, creating a buzz for other families looking to move out of the crowded, over-priced housing in Boston. I believe that the large number of good Asian real estate brokers attributes the growth of Quincy neighborhoods filling up with Asian homeowners. Being a broker is attainable only after 2 years of working with your Real Estate Sales License. Everybody got a license. It was a good job that paid well and it was a job where being bilingual gave you a competitive advantage.

The City of Quincy has been very receptive to the emerging Asian storefronts. The storefronts have been abandoned by owners who moved away or who wanted to get out of Quincy. I can say that the Asian storefronts protected Quincy's business tax base because if it was not for all the nail/hair salons, massage parlors and restaurants, Quincy's storefronts would be pretty vacant. I appreciate all those Quincy business owners!! Thank you. It makes Quincy such a great place to live.

Victor Ng is a Sampan columnist

FOOD

## Zoe's Gourmet Chinese Cuisine in Somerville

By Alan Phillips

My wife and I went to Zoe's restaurant on Beacon Street in Somerville one night in February only to discover tragedy: Zoe's was gone and a new restaurant was operating in its old location. We were sorely disappointed by the loss. Zoe's had a wonderful menu of Sichuan and Hunan dishes not found elsewhere in the Boston area. We ended up that night eating overpriced, mediocre food at some other restaurant lamenting our loss.

Later, when I looked online, I discovered that Zoe's didn't go out of business. The restaurant merely moved to a new and better location across the street. In fact, we had parked right in front of it without realizing it on the February night in question. If we had only looked over our shoulders we could have had great Hunan food and spared ourselves disappointment.

We made up for our failure to pay attention by visiting the new Zoe's the next day and several times since. Zoe's new location is a big improvement over their former site. The old place was small and cramped and you got the feeling it was someone's apartment living room converted into a restaurant (which, in truth it probably was.) The new location has more room, better lighting and new furniture, so I no longer have to say "Go for the food and ignore the décor."

One of my favorite dishes is the Dry Fried Beef in Fired Pot under the "Hunan Style" section of the menu. This is served in a dish with a flame under it to keep it cooking while you are still eating it. It is a slightly smoky-tasting beef simmered with peppers and vegetables. The best things about this dish are the pickled peppers. These are small, hot red peppers that give the dish a unique tart and spicy flavor. The meat is usually very good but a few times when we ordered the Dry Fried Beef, it was a bit overcooked. There is a Dry Fried Pork version of this dish as well, but it tends to be a bit fatty. A Dry Fried Chicken is also listed on the menu, but it was never available on the times we visited.

Several times we have ordered a noodle dish called Suan La Fen as an appetizer. It is a bowl of bean noodles served in a sour and spicy soup with a ton of red peppers. It makes a great starter but can be very spicy.

Another very good dish is West Hunan Country Chicken. This is a spicy vegetable and chicken dish with bones. Like the Dry Fried Beef above, it has a few Chinese pickled peppers, but it differs in having a slightly salty black bean flavor.

If you want a less spicy chicken dish, try the Family Style Spicy Chicken. Despite its name, I found it actually milder than the West Hunan Chicken. It is boneless chicken served with water chestnuts and some red peppers.

Zoe's has several excellent fish dishes. One of my favorites is the Hunan Style Fish Fillet. This is a lightly fried fish with vegetables peppers. It also has a slight flavor of huajiao or Sichuan peppercorns, which gives it a tingly sensation on your tongue. This can be a good balance to other dishes because it is not covered in a sauce like many others on the menu.

Another good seafood dish is the Bean Curd Flower with Sliced Fish. When served, this looks just like a bowl of vanilla ice cream with cherry syrup. But when you take a bite, the vanilla ice cream is really fish and soft tofu while the cherry syrup is really spicy chili oil.

Zoe's is a great place for authentic Hunan and Sichuan food, and their new, bigger location makes the experience all the better. It's not too far from Porter Square in Cambridge so you could even walk there within fifteen minutes.

Zoe's Gourmet Chinese Cuisine  
296 Beacon Street  
Somerville, MA 02143

Alan Phillips is the technology coordinator and ASCENT instructor at the Asian American Civic Association

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## Music

## Playing games the musical way: Video Game Orchestra scores a big night at Berklee



The VGO's concert at Berklee Performance Center features guest conductor Jack Wall of Vidco Game Live. (Courtesy of the VGO)

By Cody Yiu

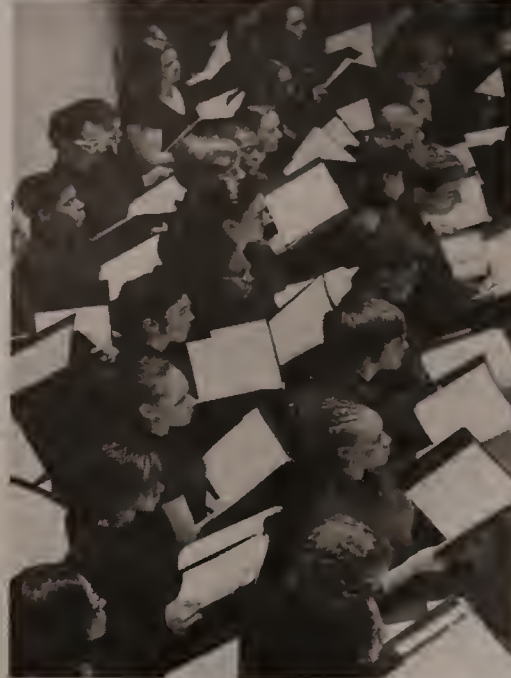
Rules of concert etiquette did not apply on the evening of March 5, when 1,200 video game aficionados flocked into Berklee Performance Center for a live concert of nothing but video game music. Clad in jeans and T-shirts, they clapped, cheered and shouted spontaneously as the Video Game Orchestra (VGO) performed pieces from their favorite games, such as the Final Fantasy series, Sonic the Hedgehog and Caesar IV.

The concert was the orchestra's third show since its first concert in July 2008. Surprisingly, the performers did not seem to mind the boisterous crowd. In fact, they seemed to revel in the hubbub.

The VGO gathers an eclectic group

of eighty-five students from four Boston-area colleges and twenty countries. The orchestra touts a forty-piece chamber orchestra, a forty-piece choir, and a five-piece rock band.

"One Winged Angel" from Final Fantasy VII was one of most impressive pieces performed that night. Composed by Nobuo Uematsu, the piece features a Latin chorus and is the theme music of the game's final battle. The name of the piece refers to the single black wing of the game's antagonist, Sephiroth. As the chorus, the Berklee Chamber Choir Club, sang about the epic battle, a silence hung above the audience. Transfixed in their seats, the audience soaked in the notes of terror and suspense permeating the music.



The Berklee Chamber Choir Club shines in the concert. (Courtesy of the VGO)

Unleashing the audience's emotions is what a good show does. And the VGO does it well. The masterminds of the show – Shota Nakama of Okinawa, Japan; Kian How Yoa of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and Simon Lee of Kuala Lumpur – not only know their music but also their games. This dynamic trio has studied music at Berklee College of Music and shares a love of video gaming. Unique as the production managers are, making the cut at orchestra auditions took more than conventional skills. "Our audition process is rather unique as compared to others. Our auditions are broken down into three sections: performance, sight reading, and interview. The first two are pretty self-explanatory. In our interview section, we ask the

candidates about some of their favorite video games, game soundtracks, game composers and they will briefly elaborate on them," said Yoa, who studies film scoring and music synthesis at Berklee.

At one point during the show, Yoa even got on the stage and proudly announced that he had challenged Final Fantasy VII 25 1/2 times.

"Well, I played FF VII 25 1/2 times over the span of 10 years, the final 1/2 wasn't completed because I had to come to Berklee. It's ironic that I never had a chance to complete that 1/2 ever since I came here, but I guess it brings a good laugh talking about it!" Yoa said. Nakama cracked jokes and encouraged audience participation in the form of shouting the names of the pieces. Lee was so ecstatic that he could hardly contain his excitement; when spotted in the limelight, he seemed caught up in his own words. Both famed and up-and-coming composers on stage claimed the orchestra was every composer's dream come true.

Sitting in a Newbury Street café at 7 p.m. the night after the concert, the trio shared their thoughts on the show and the orchestra. Worn out by the previous night's actions and the party afterward, Lee was bleary-eyed. Yoa said he just got out of bed not long ago and ordered breakfast. Nakama was alert and attentive.

Nakama, the founder, brainstormed the idea of VGO in April 2008 as a means to gain "musical respect" for the video game community. In addition,

CONTINUED PAGE 7

## • REAL ESTATE •

Wellfleet Apartments  
Fred Bell Way, Wellfleet, MA

Wellfleet Apartments, sponsored by the Wellfleet Housing Authority and developed and operated by the Lower Cape Cod Community Development Corporation (dba Community Development Partnership) is a 12-unit community consisting of one, two and three bedroom apartments designed for family households.

Wellfleet Apartments are currently fully occupied; however, a waiting list has been established. Applications are accepted on a first come, first served basis. Wellfleet Apartments are subsidized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Housing Service, Barnstable County HOME Funds and MA Department of Housing and Community Development HOME funds. Residents pay a designated percentage of their income for rent.

The first priority for occupancy is provided to eligible household applicants whose family income is 50% or less of the established median family income for the area as follows:

Household Size	Income Limits	Household Size	Income Limits
1 person	\$25,900	4 persons	\$37,000
2 persons	\$29,600	5 persons	\$39,950
3 persons	\$33,300		

If there are an insufficient number of eligible household applicants whose income is 50% or less than the established median family income of the area, second priority is provided to eligible household applicants whose family income does not exceed 80% of the established median family income for the area as follows:

Household Size	Income Limits	Household Size	Income Limits
1 person	\$41,450	4 persons	\$59,200
2 persons	\$47,350	5 persons	\$63,950
3 persons	\$53,300		

For applications and information, go to our website at [www.capecdp.org](http://www.capecdp.org) or contact us at:

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FROM PAGE 8 VGO

the orchestra also serves as a practical learning ground for student composers, musicians and engineers.

In forming this orchestra, Nakama hopes to promote video game music as a musical genre unto itself. "Video game music is still underrated even though musically it is mature enough to be categorized as one musical genre. I wanted to gain musical respect for the music I have always loved and everyone loves!" said Nakama, whose favorite games include the Dragon Quest series, the Final Fantasy series and the Metal Gear Solid series.

After building the orchestra from the ground up for the past year and a half, Nakama is no longer a talent scout but a talent magnet.

"I used to go and hunt for players [at recitals and concerts]. Now people email me and ask for auditions, friends are introducing me players, players bringing players," Nakama said.

Yoa, who was first an audience member, helped out in the second show as a friend of Nakama. He now oversees operations, such as strategic planning and rehearsals, as a co-producer.

Each of the three plays a distinctive role: Nakama is the head honcho and the teacher (he frowns upon tardiness and the lack of professionalism among players), Yoa is the operations manager, and Lee is the marketing manager.

Lee and Nakama met in 2006 through a networking organization at Berklee called the Jams @ Berklee Club, founded by Lee. Like his close friend Yoa, Lee joined the VGO team soon after the first show and found a niche for himself within the team.



From left: Simon Lee, Shota Nakama and Kian How Yoa. (Courtesy of the VGO)

"Since I was working mainly in the marketing field during the day and music during nights, he needed help greatly on the marketing side of things...so I joined the upper force of the orchestra to help him out with this project," said Lee, who majored in contemporary writing and production at Berklee and recently moved from his day job to work full-time at the VGO.

The team meets weekly to plan, brainstorm and strategize. Seeing eye-to-eye on things takes more than sharing

common interests.

"I work best with people with dedication and responsibility and people who agree with the idea of being humble and have a sense of networking abilities to serve and help the community, and Shota is one of them," said Lee, who describes himself as an "old-school" video game fan. His favorites list includes Prehistoric 2, Sonic the Hedgehog and Warcraft.

These three young men know the art of good entertainment. The two-hour

concert without intermission flew by in a blink of an eye. Gratefully, the program did not try the audience's attention span after a day's work – the pieces were short and the styles of music were diverse. The orchestra gave a memorable performance. With adrenaline pumped through the audience that night, snoring would have been one difficult sound effect to add to the mix.

Find out more about VGO at <http://www.vgo-online.org/live/> and their group on Facebook.

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All pre-applications must be received by **Friday May 22, 2009** in order to be eligible for the lottery on June 1, 2009.



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Phases 1 is subsidized by the HUD Section 8 Program. Phase 2 is subsidized by the USDA Rural Development Rental Assistance Program. Most residents pay 30% of their adjusted annual income for rent. Some residents may pay more than 30% based on availability of subsidy and on income.

#### PHASE 1 INCOME LIMITS: VERY LOW

1 Person	\$25,900
2 Persons	\$29,600

#### PHASE 2 INCOME LIMITS: VERY LOW      LOW

1 Person	\$25,900	\$41,450
2 Persons	\$29,600	\$47,350

Pine Oaks Village Phases 1 and 2 are beautifully landscaped communities close to beaches, shops, doctors, churches, police and fire stations and public transportation. All units are ground level.

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or TDD 1-800-545-1833 x 132  
or may write to the address listed above.



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All interested and qualified applicants should submit application materials to:

Dr. Anne Wilson  
The Public Schools of Brookline  
333 Washington Street, 5th Floor  
Brookline, MA 02445  
anne\_wilson@brookline.k12.ma.us

A complete application includes: Letter of Interest, Resume, Three (3) current letters of recommendation

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## Food

## Boston's Restaurant Week

# Dining Out in A Slow Economy

By Anna Ing; Edited by Yu-Ting Liu

As a food lover, twice a year I look forward to Boston's Restaurant Week. It started in New York during the 1980's only during lunch time and now it includes dinner and spans nationwide from Boston to San Francisco. The most recent Boston's Winter Restaurant Week was actually from March 15-20 and March 22-27, 2009 with 228 local area restaurants participating. Now more than ever, eating at fine dining establishments for a fraction of the cost is appealing during these tough economic times. Options include a new 2 course lunch option for \$15.09 (for those who do not eat dessert) and the usual 3 course lunch \$20.09 and 3 course dinner option \$33.09. By the way, some establishments had surcharges on some menu (pricier) items such as foie gras and lobster. All prices do not include drinks, tax and gratuity.

This winter, I chose a wide variety of restaurants from French, American, Indian, Spanish and Ital-

ian during the two weeks -- Bin Osteria, No. 9 Park, L'Espalier, Toro, KO Prime, Marliave and Caliterra. Some restaurants will only have two menu choices for each course, like KO Prime, while the others will offer the whole menu such as Marliave.

I find the food trends that show up on the various menus to be interesting. There is always a salad and soup option for the appetizers. For entrees, I always find a meat and fish option as well as pasta (especially with more than one choice). Finally with dessert, I usually see a light dessert such as panna cotta and a chocolate choice. If I can, I try to get items I cannot make or are a bit more substantial such as Rack of Lamb and Lobster Fettuccini. I did splurge at No.9 Park as I was celebrating a special occasion. It is worth it and I felt pampered.

Restaurant Week is a great marketing tool for restaurants as it allows many diners to visit restaurants typically out of their

reach (including my own wallet). Since there are so many choices, how does one choose? Personally, I review the restaurant listing and write down the ones I have not eaten at and are on the high end. The reservation process can be tricky as they are not available until a month beforehand. Savvy diners know the top notch restaurants fill up quickly so the KEY is to plan and reserve ahead of time.

I always go with friends and it is a fun tradition. If I can, I go in groups to some places so that I can have more options to try out more of the menu like I did at Toro and Marliave at this time. We all sample a little of each other's dishes too.

Now I am getting ready for the Boston's Summer Restaurant week in August. First I need to work off all this great food. For more details about Boston's Restaurant Week, please check out: <http://www.bostonusa.com/visit/restaurantweek>

## Youth

ABCD Now accepts summer job applications- Teenagers, older youths urged to apply at ABCD Neighborhood Sites

Teenagers and young people up to age 24 are urged to apply now for the ABCD SummerWorks program. This year Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) will provide summer jobs for young people ages 14 to 24.

Applications for the 2009 ABCD SummerWorks jobs program for youngsters from low-income families are now available at local neighborhood sites. Those interested can call 617-348-6548 or log onto [www.bostonabcd.org](http://www.bostonabcd.org) for information.

The ABCD SummerWorks program offers paid work experience, tutoring, mentoring and career development to disadvantaged youths in the city of Boston. Those served by ABCD are the most at-risk young people in the city - all come from inner-city families with a total family income of \$28,605 or less for a family of four.

ABCD SummerWorks is part of Mayor Thomas Menino's summer jobs initiative for Boston and has provided opportunities for at-risk Boston youth since 1965. This year ABCD officials anticipate some additional funds from state and federal sources, but say the still must rely on private fundraising initiatives to serve the many teenagers applying to the program.

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## 活動簡訊

【舢舨美食記者吳家儀報導：劉郁廷譯，洪瑩兒校對】

菜單上的選項很有意思，沙拉和湯似乎是前菜不可避免的選項，而我總是必點肉或魚當我的主菜，義大利麵也是必點的選擇（尤其是如果餐廳提供多種主菜選擇），甜點我則是必點義式奶酪或是巧克力蛋糕。今年的餐廳週，在No.9 Park餐

現在我已經等不及八月即將到來的夏季美食週，但在這之前我得先把所有吃進去的卡路里消耗掉！有興趣了解有關波士頓美食週的相關詳情，請瀏覽以下網站 [www.bostonusa.com/visit/restaurantweek](http://www.bostonusa.com/visit/restaurantweek)

有好康報給舢舨美食記者知道嗎？  
寄電郵至 [foodie@sampan.org](mailto:foodie@sampan.org)  
上舢舨網站閱讀全新的電子報！

僑教中心將於4月8日至6月10日止

中華表演藝術基金會主辦的「第18屆全美圖書法比賽」現在接受各中文學校學生報名。比賽將分類、按年齡分組舉行。4月15日截止收件。4月25日將公開評審。優勝者有獎金獎狀，作品並有機會參加巡展。有關詳情可上網查詢：[www.ChinesePerformingArts.net](http://www.ChinesePerformingArts.net)。

欲知更多詳情、  
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# 音樂專欄

## 玩電子遊戲、玩出新音樂一

### “電子遊戲搖滾交響樂團”在演奏中心精彩的一幕



Video Game Orchestra 音樂幕後創作人：李益生 (Simon Lee)、來自日本沖繩島的仲間將太(Shota Nakama)、馬來西亞吉隆坡的姚健浩 (Kian How Yoa)。(圖由VGO提供)。

在3月5日晚間，1,200名愛好電子遊戲的發燒友聚集在波士頓的柏克理音樂學院演奏中心 (Berklee Performance Center)，平日在音樂會上向看到的裝重禮服，如今換上的是牛仔褲和T恤。在眾人的鼓掌和歡呼之下，“電子遊戲搖滾交響樂團 Video Game Orchestra (VGO)”奏出眾人喜愛例如《最終幻想》系列 (Final Fantasy series)，《刺猬與凱撒大帝IV》遊戲 (Hedgehog and Caesar IV) 的音樂選曲系列等，一場以電子遊戲音樂為主的演奏會隨即將開始。

這次是樂團自上年七月以來第三次舉行的音樂會，令人興奮的是表演樂團似乎一點也不介意這一羣喧鬧的觀眾，反而陶醉在他們的熱情之中。”電子遊戲音樂管絃樂團”的表演者由波士頓4間不同大專院校的學生組成，他們來自二十個不同的國家地區等，演奏出40首不同的管絃音樂，40首以合唱團方式的音樂，以及5首搖滾風格音樂。

“一翼天使”(One Winged Angel)——《最終幻想系列VII》(Final Fantasy series VII) 為當晚令人印象難忘的作品。此曲由Nobuo Uematsu 創作，結合柏克理音樂學院室內音樂合唱團 (Berklee Chamber Choir Club) 的南美拉丁合唱隊一同

演出，主題是最後的戰鬥遊戲，音樂中帶出黑翼主角 Sephiroth一場史詩式戰鬥，台下的觀眾被那突如其來的一份歡喜若狂神秘美妙的音樂攝動了，沉醉穿梭在音樂世界之中。

“電子遊戲搖滾交響樂團 Video Game Orchestra (VGO)”緊緊觸動觀眾的心靈，是音樂會成功之處。音樂幕後創作人是來自日本沖繩島的仲間將太(Shota Nakama)，馬來西亞吉隆坡的姚健浩 (Kian How Yoa)，和李益生 (Simon Lee)。他們就讀於波士頓的柏克理音樂學院 (Berklee School of Music)，喜愛音樂，也喜愛玩電子遊戲，各人對音樂和電子遊戲也同時非常了解，融入兩者，編寫出構思獨特美妙的樂曲。

「我們音樂面試的甄選過程，相當獨特，由三個部分：演奏，音樂閱讀能力和面試會談；前兩項跟其他面試相似，但最後面試的部份我們詢問候選人他們喜歡玩那一種電子遊戲，電腦遊戲內的音樂，遊戲音樂裏作曲的者認識，然後讓他們去演繹結合電子遊戲和音樂。」姚健浩說。他是柏克理音樂學院修讀電影配樂的學生；在台上的一次表演，他更自豪地宣告終於成功挑戰了《最終幻想VII》電子遊戲25.5次！

透過創辦交響樂團，仲間將太指望

能夠推動電子遊戲音樂，將它打進作為一種正式音樂的新流派。他說：「雖然電子遊戲音樂正趨向成熟被視作一種音樂類型，但它仍然被視為是一種比較低層次的音樂創作。我希望為到喜歡這種音樂的樂迷，增取更多在主流音樂上的注意，獲得多點尊重，推動電子遊戲音樂的創作和發展接受的程度，介紹更多人留意這種優美樂曲。」他又說：「我喜愛的電子遊戲為《最終幻想》，《勇者鬥惡龍》(Dragon Quest Series) 和《潛龍諜影》(Metal Gear Solid Series) 系列。

這三位年輕音樂人明瞭藝術與娛樂之間產生微妙的關係，兩個小時的演奏會瞬間沖沖便過去，他們演奏動人的樂章大多以短，輕快的風格，及多樣化的音樂吸引了台下無數的觀眾。音樂創作人對電子音樂創作有熱誠的憧憬，一份創作理想的熱枕，他們認為能夠帶給觀眾一個難忘，娛樂性的晚上，又能與觀眾作一個音樂上交流。他們的演出，沒有冷場，加插不到台下觀眾打鼾聲音的特別效果呢！

(Cody Yiu 原文、撰寫/翻譯：謝婉君)

# 社會論壇

## 中美雙重文化對在美國土生土長孩子們的影響

隨著中國經濟力量與國際地位的提升，今日華裔子弟在美國長大的生活要比數十年前改變了許多。

華裔家長平時很努力地灌注中華文化與語言到他們孩子的身上。然而，孩子一旦踏出家門，整個英語環境為孩子們學習他們本身的根源文化形成了一定的困難。如何能夠讓華裔孩子正確地認知中美不同的文化，對自己有一個正確的定位，接著從這種特殊的生長環境中真正地得益，成為了家長們的一個難題。

週末提供課程的中文學校在全美各地越來越多，其中全美中文學校協會 (CSAUS) 擁有來自橫跨全國42州，三百多個會員學校，超過6萬名學生，以及5千位老師。很多華裔家長選擇了讓他們的孩子進入這樣的語言學校學習中文。但是要更加全面地了解中華文化，單純地學習語言是不夠的。

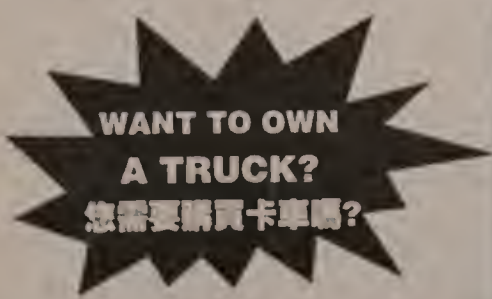
去年，全美中文學校協會和企業贊助商 iTalkBB 家庭電話所舉辦的全美青少年中文作文比賽，提供8位在美國長大的華裔學生一趙由 iTalkBB 全額贊助的中國尋根之旅。其中有6位得獎學生是由五位分別來自於全美中文學校協會、iTalkBB、及三家享有盛名的中文媒體——北美新浪、美國鳳凰衛視，與世界日報的評審委員。其他的2位學生則是經由民眾在其主題網站上投票選出的。

iTalkBB 首席執行官趙捷說：「我們想提供這些華裔年輕人一個以寫作來表現自己的機會，我們知道這趟去中國的尋根之旅，可以真正地改變他們對自身為一個華裔美國人的看法。」

孩子們可能常聽見家長們談論身為一個中國人的重要性，除非他們親身經歷，他們是很難去了解的。

鳳凰衛視在3月29日太平洋時間的下午6點25分 (東部時間9點25分) 將分成上下兩集，分別播出這8位學生參訪四川大地震後新建學校的精采片段。

(文由 iTalkBB 提供)



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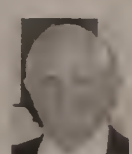
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移民資訊

09年4月移民排期表

學習美國移民法：  
有條件永久居留

諦姆（譯音）和李梅（譯音）2008年一月一日美麗的新年除夕在中國北京喜結連理。他們談戀愛三年終於結婚，很是激動。結婚之後他們搬到麻州波士頓，諦姆為李梅申請永久居留，也就是所謂綠卡。2009年三月十五日李梅的綠卡申請被批准。但李梅有些疑惑，因為她的綠卡被稱為有條件永久居留。

如果你是通過結婚移民來美還不到兩年時間，那麼你的綠卡就是有條件的。換句話說，你是有條件的永久居民。這個條件將持續到你拿到綠卡後的兩年為止。兩年之後，你要向政府申請變換移民身份，從有條件永久居民變成合法永久居民。

但是如果李梅和諦姆結婚不到兩年就離婚了，而李梅仍在美國持有條件居留身份，她會失掉綠卡嗎？

通常美國移民局要求持有條件居留身份的一方必須和其配偶一起申請取消有條件居留。但是若兩人先離婚後申請取消就有例外。

如果你有條件居留，離婚了，你可以填寫I-745申請不用你的前配偶幫助來取消有條件居住限制，條件是你能證明當初你結婚是誠心誠意的，現在婚姻關係已經合法終止。所以如果你能證明你和你的前配偶的婚姻關係是真的，你們已經從法律上離婚，那麼你可以單獨提交I-751申請。同樣離婚夫婦的子女也可以單獨提交I-751申請，如果他們能證明他們的父母當初結婚是真心真意的，而且他們從法律上已經離婚。

要證明你當時結婚是真心真意，你必須提交盡可能多的I-751附表來證明你曾經有一個真實婚姻。材料包括夫妻共有的銀行帳戶借貸表，租賃契約或顯示你和前配偶都具名的抵押，和子女出生證明，這些統統都有利於證明你的婚姻曾經有效過。

Keith A. Pabian, Esq. 是 Pabian & Russell, LLC的移民律師，精通中文普通話。聯繫電話：617-951-3721。電郵：kapbian@pabianrussell.com，預約或需要移民幫助或建議請聯繫。  
(宋查理 譯)

入籍考試樣題系列  
之六

75. What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?  
問：請列舉出一件亞伯拉罕·林肯的事蹟。  
A : Freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)  
答：解放黑奴；  
A : Saved (or preserved) the Union.  
答：保全（或維護）聯邦；  
A : Led the U.S during the Civil War.  
答：在南北戰爭期間領導美國。

親屬移民排期	全世界 (包括 港澳 台)	中國 大陸	印度	墨西哥	菲律賓
第一優先	02年 08月 15日	02年 08月 15日	02年 08月 15日	92年 10月 08日	93年 08月 01日
第二優先 2A	04年 08月 15日	04年 08月 15日	04年 08月 15日	02年 01月 01日	04年 08月 15日
第二優先 2B	00年 09月 01日	00年 09月 01日	00年 09月 01日	92年 05月 01日	98年 01月 15日
第三優先	00年 08月 22日	00年 08月 22日	00年 08月 22日	92年 10月 22日	91年 06月 15日
第四優先	98年 04月 15日	98年 01月 08日	98年 04月 15日	95年 04月 22日	86年 06月 22日

職業移民排期	全世界 (包括港 澳台)	中國 大陸	印度	墨西哥	菲律賓
第一優先	現在 有名額	現在 有名額	現在 有名額	現在 有名額	現在 有名額
第二優先	現在 有名額	05年 02月 15日	04年 02月 15日	現在 有名額	現在 有名額
第三優先	03年 03月 01日	03年 03月 01日	01年 11月 01日	03年 03月 01日	03年 03月 01日
非技術 勞工	01年 03月 01日	01年 03月 01日	01年 03月 01日	01年 03月 01日	01年 03月 01日
第四優先	現在 有名額	現在 有名額	現在 有名額	現在 有名額	現在 有名額
宗教 工作者	沒有 名額	沒有 名額	沒有 名額	沒有 名額	沒有 名額
第五優先	現在 有名額	現在 有名額	現在 有名額	現在 有名額	現在 有名額

76. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?  
問：解放宣言的意義是什麼？  
A : Freed the slaves  
答：解放奴隸。  
A : Freed slaves in the Confederacy  
答：解放南方聯邦的奴隸。  
A : Freed slaves in the Confederate states  
答：解放南方聯邦各州的奴隸；  
A : Freed slaves in most Southern states  
答：解放南方大部分州的奴隸。

77. What did Susan B. Anthony do?  
問：蘇珊·安東尼有何事蹟？  
A : fought for women's rights.  
答：為女權奮鬥。  
A : fought for civil rights.  
答：為民權奮鬥。

C: Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information  
C: 近代美國歷史

78. Name one war fought in the United Sates in the 1900s.  
問：舉出一場美國在一九零零年代參與過的戰爭。  
A : World War I  
答：第一次世界大戰

A : World War II  
答：第二次世界大戰  
A : Korean War  
答：韓戰  
A : Vietnam War  
答：越戰  
A : (Persian) Gulf War.  
答：(波斯灣)海灣戰爭  
79. Who was President during World War I?  
問：第一次世界大戰的時候美國總統是誰？  
A : Woodrow Wilson.  
答：烏德洛·威爾遜。

80. Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?  
問：美國大蕭條和二次大戰期間的總統是誰？  
A : Franklin Roosevelt.  
答：佛蘭克林·羅斯福。

81. Who did the United States fight in World War II?  
問：美國在第二次大戰時是與誰為戰？  
A : Japan, Germany, and Italy.  
答：日本、德國和義大利。

82. Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?  
問：艾森威爾當總統之前是個將領，他曾參加過哪場戰爭？

親屬移民排期表  
第一優先：美國公民的成年未婚子女  
第二優先：2A 永久居民的配偶及未成年子女  
第二優先：2B 永久居民成年子女  
第三優先：公民的已婚子女  
第四優先：公民的兄弟姐妹

職業移民排期表  
第一優先：傑出人才、研究人員教授  
第二優先：2A 永久居民的配偶及未成年子女  
第二優先：高等學位專業人才  
第三優先：技術勞工及專業人士  
第四優先：宗教工作者  
第五優先：投資移民

A : World War II.  
答：第二次世界大戰。

83. During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?  
問：美國在冷戰期間最擔心的是什麼？  
A : Communism.  
答：共產主義。

84. What movement tried to end racial discrimination?  
問：哪一個運動試圖終止種族歧視？  
A : Civil rights (or Civil movement).  
答：民權運動。

85. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?  
問：馬丁·路德·金有何事蹟？  
A : Fought for civil rights.  
答：為民權奮戰；  
A : Worked for equality for all Americans.  
答：為所有美國人爭取平等。

86. What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?  
問：2001年9月11日美國發生了什麼大事？  
A : Terrorists attacked The United States.  
答：恐怖分子攻擊美國。

87. Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.  
問：請列舉出美國的一個印第安人部族  
A : Cherokee 卻洛基,  
A : Navajo 納瓦荷  
A : Sioux 蘇  
A : Chippewa 齊普瓦  
A : Choctaw 喬克陶  
A : Pueblo 布耶布洛  
A : Apache 阿帕契  
A : Iroquois 伊洛噶斯  
A : Creek 庫瑞克  
A : Blackfeet 佈雷克費特  
A : Seminole 塞米諾利斯  
A : Cheyenne 斜陰  
A : Arawak 阿拉瓦克  
A : Shawnee 蕭尼  
A : Mohegan 莫希根  
A : Huron 忽隆  
A : Oneida 歐尼達  
A : Lakota 拉科塔  
A : Crow 克洛  
A : Teton 泰頓  
A : Hopi 賀皮  
A : Inuit 伊努特。

(題目華美富利會提供)



## 華埠新聞

(接第二版-華埠南灣社區會議)

Hill Perpetual Care Fund) 出現赤字，而 2006 年的赤字更為 95 萬美元之多，一個不少數目。墓地維修有賴其永久基金，如今基金出現赤字，表示墓地可能出現缺乏資金維修，而墳場董事委員會又不允許社區代表參與共商事務，管理嚴重欠缺透明度，令人擔憂墳場管理的永久管理基金究竟出現什麼問題，華人為該墳場的最多租用者，森林山丘墳場 (Forest Hill Cemetery) 需向社區及公眾作一個合理的交代。

中華公所反影及爭取華埠主要街道在路牌內增設中文名字，如哈里遜街 (Harrison Street)，必珠街 (Beach Street)，尼倫街 (Kneeland Street) 等。公所將會與市政相關部門作更多中英雙語路牌指示方案反影的需要。



## 社會論壇

作者：梁愛薇，華人前進會

華埠在鄰區中有大部分是勞工家庭。自 2000 年，已有超過 900 個豪華單位建於我們的社區，相比之下，只有 140 中等和低收入單位。而 W 酒店是波士頓唐人街的另一個豪華化發展。發展中有 235 間客房的酒店，和有 123 個豪華住宅的公寓。這些豪華公寓在廣告中每單位由 41 萬元至 450 萬元！

那麼多的發展帶來豪華化的唐人街，驅趕居民和本地企業。這些項目吹捧為“經濟發展”，但有多少唐人街居民真正在這些建築物中得到就業機會？W 酒店準備在今年秋季開張，我們希望它作為一個新的鄰居，會考慮如何才能有助於穩定唐人街的未來。

我們要求 W 酒店：

- 建立標準的招聘目標，應具體說明僱用波士頓居民、少數民族、婦女，特別側重於唐人街鄰區的居民。
- 公平對待英語水平有限的申請者，因他們擁有從事這項工作的資格。接受紙上申請來替代網上申請程序。
- 公開招聘計劃和標準的細節。
- 公開唐人街辦公室的招聘計劃。招聘辦公室應不得向求職者收取費用。
- 提供職業英語訓練和職前培訓（申請者和僱員適用）。
- 與社區組織討論有關招聘計劃，並報告給社區有關招聘的結果。

## W 酒店的發展、社區要發聲

我們知道，我們社區只要強烈地組織起來，我們可以實現對 W 酒店的要求。過去的經驗表明了可以通過基層組織而獲得勝利。在 15 年前，唐人街社區積極分子和居民一起聯合，反對在 C 地段的土地上興建一個八樓高的停車場。最初許多人認為反對興建停車場是白費工失，沒有作用。但最終，經過 18 個月的組織反對，涉及數以千計的社會人士參與，社區終於贏了！今天，坐落在 C 地段的信義大廈是一個混合發展用途的大樓，象徵著社區的力量。本地機構如塔夫茨醫學中心推出特別社區外展計劃，因為它們認識到社區的重要性，被視為“好鄰居。”

3 月 30 日（星期一）華人前進會工人互助中心會開一個社區的集會，討論就業機會和發展，也解釋我們本地和少數民族對 W 酒店的要求。我們會邀請本地市議員，酒店工會，和其他社區領袖，聽證唐人街居民和失業工人困境，並要求他們支持向 W 酒店施加壓力，使本地和少數民族能得到優先聘用。

當我們團結和組織起來，便認識到我們的社區是有力量。公司也會認識到，這是對企業有利成為好鄰居。作為社區一分子，希望你能支持一同參與爭取工作機會，歡迎參加社區集會，時間在 3 月 30 日（星期一）下午一時。地點：屋街 38 號，信義大廈社區室。

## 活動簡訊

• 華埠清潔華埠清潔

保持華埠清潔是大家責任，請幫助保持華埠清潔。訪客到乾淨的華埠將能幫助促進您的生意。在 2009 年 4 月 25 日從 9:00 上午對 1:00 pm，那天我們需要志願者幫助清掃華埠，請志願者在 9:00 上午到必珠街和哈里遜大道，即永豐銀行前面報到。聯絡人：華埠主街 Courtney Ho Ha 617-350-6303; 2 Boylston Street G-1 Boston, Ma. 02116。網址：www.chinatownmainstreet.org

• 台師大校友迎新聯誼

台師大校友迎新聯誼於 3 月 28 日（週六）中午 12 點至下午 3 點在僑教中心舉行。每人 \$10（校友會在學新生、已繳會費的會員和 12 歲以下子女免費）。歡迎攜家帶眷、邀約親朋好友參加。除餐飲，還有卡拉 OK 娛興節目。報名 3/22 前，以 email: suminpy@gmail.com 或 sweetheartyi.ntnu@yahoo.com。

• 中華文化之夜

第三屆中華文化之夜將於 3 月 28 日（週六）晚上 7:30 在：Westwood 高中大禮堂 (200 Nahatan St.) 舉行，由威斯武德文協和沙龍中校合辦。免費，可向威斯武德公立圖書館索票。聯絡：黃天韻 781-366-1456，電郵：sarinahuang@hotmail.com。

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華埠西橡樹街 8 號 電話: (617) 426-2237 網址: www.ymcaboston.org/wang



## 華埠新聞

華埠南灣社區會議全體會員出席  
合影留念

【本報謝婉君波士頓報導】華埠南灣社區每月會議在中華公所16日晚上舉行。今次會議有關“波士頓華埠閃亮日(BOSTON SHINE 09)”城市清潔運動、區內一所紋身中心經營執照申請、街道雙語路標指示、中華公所森林山丘(Forest Hill)墳場管理會有意提名陳灼鑒為華裔代表等。

一年一度的華埠清潔日將定於在4月25日(星期六)早上9至中午1時進行。此活動由波士頓市長(曼寧諾)市長親自發起，在過去5年的華埠清潔日有多於5000位不同自願人士參與，成果令人滿意。中華公所主席何遠光先生表示保持華埠清潔是大家責任，不只在清潔日才進行，其實每一天也是清潔日，保持華埠區內清潔，街道通行無阻，美化市容是各區居民共同努力可做到的。波士頓是著名旅遊城市，華埠整潔，不單令遊客對中國城留下良好印象，一洗中國城給人凌亂的感覺，更能幫助各餐館促進生意，在現時經濟低迷的情現，保持社區清潔更顯得重要。區內居民能在衛生整潔的社區裡生活，對各人的身心健康也有幫助，“華埠閃亮城市清潔日”，敬請區內各方人士大力支持，一同參與。

自願者於當天早上九時，齊聚集在永豐銀行，即必珠街和哈里遜街前面報到。有意人士參與或有關更多清潔日資料，請聯絡何遠光(Gilbert Ho)先生：617-594-0033。

在27-31號哈里遜街的一所紋身中心申請營業執照，有意開設紋身中心，店主張偉斯(Sueann Cheung)為前海軍陸戰隊(United States Marine Corps)中士，在

海軍五年生涯當中，曾駐守在夏威夷。她特意到華埠南灣社區例會議了解申請營業執照手續及加強對社區和各社團認識。會議上，一時間各會員對紋身中心的開設提出不同的觀點及各種執照手續申請起了積極的意見。張偉斯女士更拿出波士頓市政廳一信與會上各人相討，最後眾人建議她帶同更多紋身中心店開設的資料，出席下月的華埠治安委會，到時讓大家了解更多。

會議上，何遠光提出推舉陳灼鑒先生(Bill Moy)為森林山丘(Forest Hill Cemetery)墳場董事委員會之一，望在19日的董事委員大會上，得到支持。柯德文殯儀館(J.S. Waterman & Sons)殯儀館，館長白堅禮(Kenneth F. Bennett)表示他們在華人圈子經營多年，了解他們的需要。議上眾人也希望華裔代表有更多發言機會。

基於華人佔了森林山丘(Forest Hill)墳場的租用比數75%，超過一半以上；而當中只有兩位委員會是華人，缺乏華裔代表為華人增取發言權益。在華埠南灣社區會議之後，與何遠光先生跟進最新消息，得知當天的森林山園墳場董事委員大會上，陳灼鑒先生不但未被推舉為新委員，各森林山園墳場董事委員更行使董事及委員資格，不容許他們在場參加或法表意見，把陳灼鑒及其支持人士趕離會場，使他們增取無門。何遠光先生表示華埠社區應該對森林山丘墳場(Forest Hill Cemetery)非常的關注，早在2005年開始中華公所在社區自組一個森林山園墳場華埠區內委員會，為對墳場及其永久基金管理有更清楚認識。因為他們每租賣一

墓地的金錢，一半為其永久基金管理所有，基金是用來作墓地維修之用。但華埠社區中華公所自組的森林山園墓園委員會經過與五間墳場比較後，發現只有森林山園墳場管理的永久管理基金(Forest Hill Perpetual Care Fund)出現赤字，而2006年的赤字更為95萬美元之多，一個不少數目。墓地維修有賴其永久基金，如今基金出現赤字，表示墓地可能出現缺乏資金維修，而墳場董事委員會又不允許社區代表參與共商事務，管理嚴重欠缺透明度，令人擔憂墳場管理的永久管理基金究竟出現什麼問題，華人為該墳場的最多租用者，森林山園墳場(Forest Hill Cemetery)需向社區及公眾作一個合理的交代。

中華公所反思及爭取華埠主要街道在路牌內增設中文名字，如哈里遜街(Harrison Street)，必珠街(Beach Street)，尼倫街(Kneeland Street)等。公所將會與市政相關部門作更多中英雙語路牌指示方案反思的需要。

(第三版續)

## 下一期舢舨將於 4月10日出刊

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• 賭博與亞裔社區

教育特刊：

• 暑期青少年活動介紹  
• 波士頓公校探討



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國立傳染病實驗室執行委員會(NEIDL)正尋求備有會員資格的申請人填補三名公共連絡委員(CLC)的職缺。會員為兩年制，公共連絡委員(CLC)包括六名成員，其目標為實現對社區的拓展並加強實驗室執行委員會和社區間交流提供方便與回饋。保證實驗室活動的透明度。有興趣者歡迎透過寄送郵件、發送電郵或傳真等方式投遞申請表申請成為公共聯絡委員會的一員。

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To get an application or for more information,  
contact Carla Richards, Director,  
Community Relations, Boston University Medical Campus,  
85 East Newton Street, M-421, Boston, MA 02118  
☎ Phone 617-638-8491 ☎ Fax 617-638-8044  
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